



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

November 19, 2015

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai 
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR HOME FOR HEROES RECOMMENDATIONS (ITEM NO. 3, AGENDA OF OCTOBER 20, 2015)

On October 20, 2015, the Board approved a motion by Supervisors Knabe and Solis which instructed this Office, in collaboration with the Director of Military and Veterans Affairs, Director of Mental Health, and the Executive Director of the Community Development Commission, to develop an implementation plan for recommendations in the Home for Heroes report, and report back to your Board in 30 days. The Board also set aside \$5 million of available Homeless Prevention Initiative funds for this purpose. This memorandum provides the implementation plan for the Home for Heroes recommendations, utilizing the funds approved by your Board.

On August 21, 2015, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA), working in coordination with this Office, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Community Development Commission (CDC), and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, submitted a Home for Heroes report to your Board with recommendations to expeditiously connect homeless veterans who have housing vouchers with stable, permanent homes. The report outlined the following recommendations:

- Recommendation #1: Improve access to and increase existing but limited housing stock through better communication with veterans, landlords and property managers.
- Recommendation #2: Remove the multiple financial and procedural move-in barriers working with partner agencies to cover deposits, pre-inspection repairs, and appropriation of necessary furniture and appliances.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Each Supervisor
November 19, 2015
Page 2

- Recommendation #3: Tighten the existing Housing Safety Net by including the veteran claims process, legal assistance and education or training as part of their wraparound services.

This Office, along with MVA, DMH, CDC, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, has developed an implementation plan for recommendations in the Home for Heroes report that consists of seven programs/strategies. Attached are the details of the programs/strategies that will be funded for an 18-month period from January 2016 – June 2017. Since the estimated cost of these strategies is \$3,776,500 for this 18-month period, the remaining \$1,223,500 of the \$5 million allocated by the Board will be recommended for a Veterans Benefits Advocacy Program for Homeless Veterans, as part of the package of recommended strategies from the Homeless Initiative which will be submitted to the Board in February 2016.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Phil Ansell at (213) 974-1752, or at pansell@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:JJ
PA:ib

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Community Development Commission
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Mental Health
Military and Veterans Affairs

Home For Heroes

County of Los Angeles
Implementation and Funding Plan for
Home for Heroes Recommendations
January 2016 to June 2017

Recommendation #1: Improve access to and increase existing but limited housing stock through better communication with veterans, landlords and property managers.

Program/Strategy	Program Description	Cost
Housing Stock Identification/ Retention Program Lead: HACoLA	Implement the following measures aimed at increasing the number of available units for homeless veterans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising directly to landlords and property management companies. • Outreach to potential new landlords, through several landlord recruitment events. • Contract with housing navigators to work hand-in-hand with veterans and their case workers to assist them with their housing search and contracting process. • Contract with retention coordinators to work with veterans who are housed but may be in danger of losing their housing assistance due to program violations. 	\$225,000 – Direct costs for advertising, coordinating sponsored events, staffing, etc., <u>\$34,000 - Administration</u> \$259,000 – Total program cost
Voucher Interchange Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Strategy Lead: HACoLA	Explore additional opportunities to enter into Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with neighboring Public Housing Agencies to the extent necessary to increase housing opportunities for homeless veterans. The MOUs will allow veterans to use their County-issued Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) voucher within approved communities without having to obtain approval from the County. The MOUs increase the availability of housing stock for veterans without delay.	No additional costs to implement this strategy
Bridge Housing Strategy Lead: LAHSA	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) will work with its existing providers to create a countywide network of bridge housing beds as a targeted resource for veterans who are in navigation to permanent housing outcomes, and who are unsheltered and not served by other shelter programs. Potential sites include current first-come, first-served shelter providers, and transitional housing providers that will be converting programs. The program will cover all eight Service Planning Areas (SPAs) and serve an estimated 80 veterans at any given time. These bridge-housing or targeted-reserve shelter beds are estimated to cost \$25 per night for 365 days/year.	\$1,095,000 – Bridge Housing <u>\$ 109,500 - Administration</u> \$1,204,500 - Total program cost

Recommendation #1: Improve access to and increase existing but limited housing stock through better communication with veterans, landlords and property managers.		
Program/Strategy	Program Description	Cost
Landlord Incentive Program Lead: HACoLA	Provide monetary incentive to property owners to commit to renting a unit to a homeless veteran. This monetary incentive would be in the form of a one-time payment of \$1000 once a veteran successfully leases a rental unit. It is anticipated that the program will secure approximately 750 rental units for homeless veterans.	\$750,000 - Incentive payments to landlords <u>\$113,000 - Administration</u> \$863,000 - Total program cost
Recommendation #2: Remove the multiple financial and procedural move-in barriers by working with partner agencies to cover deposits, pre-inspection repairs, and necessary furniture and appliances.		
Program/Strategy	Program Description	Cost
Move-In Cost Grant Program Lead: LAHSA	Utilizing existing contracts with a community-based provider or providers, LAHSA will provide grants to approximately 500 veterans holding a HACoLA VASH voucher to cover move-in costs, including security deposits, utility turn-on fees, utility arrears, and moving costs that the voucher holder cannot afford. Average cost per move in for each veteran is estimated at \$2,500, including administration costs.	\$1,250,000 – Move in payments <u>\$ 125,000 - Administration</u> \$1,375,000 - Total program cost
Handy Worker Program Lead: LAHSA	Utilizing existing provider contracts, LAHSA will contract with a Handy Worker or Handy Workers, who will work with landlords that agree to accept HACoLA VASH voucher holders. This program will facilitate the program's Housing Quality Standards inspection process by making routine and minor repairs to inspected units prior to move-in. Per unit costs are estimated at \$200. Units requiring this assistance are estimated at 65% of new move-ins.	\$ 65,000 – Handy Worker Costs <u>\$ 10,000 - Administration</u> \$ 75,000 - Total program cost
Recommendation #3: Tighten the existing Housing Safety Net by including the veteran claims process, legal assistance and education or training as part of their wraparound services.		
Program/Strategy	Program Description	Cost
Housing Safety Net Enhancement Program (consistent) Lead: MVA	To enhance housing sustainability, connect veterans with MVA counselors for possible compensation or pension claim, LA County Bar Association pro bono legal assistance to clear any outstanding tickets or warrants that would restrict employment opportunities, and local Worksource Centers to assist in possible employment, education or training.	No additional costs to implement this program.
TOTAL COST		\$3,776,500

HACoLA – Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles
 LAHSA – Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency
 MVA – Military and Veteran Affairs